

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising:

entering a plurality of numeric values in a plurality of number fields, wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen, wherein the numeric values comprise at least one mathematical formula, and wherein the mathematical formula includes a subtotal function;

entering a set of one or more mathematical operators in one or more operation fields, wherein the operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen; and

automatically calculating a first result of the mathematical formula, wherein the automatically calculating the first result of the mathematical formula comprises automatically calculating a subtotal of a plurality of the numeric values in a plurality of number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered;

automatically calculating a second result by applying the mathematical operators to the first result and the numeric values other than the at least one mathematical formula; and

displaying the second result on the display screen.

2. The method of claim 1,

wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises calculating a subtotal of the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying the first result on the display screen in the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

4. The method of claim 3,
wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in a same column as the plurality of numeric values.

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5. The method of claim 1,
wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises applying the mathematical operators in the operation fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered to the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

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6. The method of claim 1,
wherein the number fields and the operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns which share a first single column label.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
entering a first character string which is associated with one of the numeric values; and
displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the numeric value.

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8. The method of claim 1,
wherein the entering the numeric values comprises:
entering a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;
automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and
entering a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

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9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a first set of output character strings based on the numeric values; and displaying the first set of output character strings in the number fields.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5 displaying the mathematical formula and the first result of the mathematical formula in one of the number fields.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

entering an equality character after entering the mathematical formula; and
10 wherein the displaying the first result of the mathematical formula comprises displaying the first result after the entering the equality character.

12. The method of claim 1,

wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in at least a first column and a
15 second column on the display screen; and

wherein the method further comprises:

automatically calculating a third result based on the numeric values in the number
fields in the second column; and

displaying the third result on the display screen.

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13. A system comprising:

a CPU;

a display screen coupled to the CPU;

a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions

25 which are executable by the CPU to:

receive into the memory a plurality of numeric values in a plurality of
number fields, wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on

the display screen, wherein the numeric values comprise at least one mathematical formula, and wherein the mathematical formula includes a subtotal function;

receive into the memory a set of one or more mathematical operators in one or more operation fields, wherein the operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen; and

automatically calculate a first result of the mathematical formula, wherein the automatically calculating the first result of the mathematical formula comprises automatically calculating a subtotal of a plurality of the numeric values in a plurality of number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered;

automatically calculate a second result by applying the mathematical operators to the first result and the numeric values other than the at least one mathematical formula; and

display the second result on the display screen.

14. The system of claim 13,

wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises calculating a subtotal of the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

display the first result on the display screen in the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

16. The system of claim 15,

wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in a same column as the plurality of numeric values.

17. The system of claim 13,

wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises applying the mathematical operators in the operation fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered to the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

18. The system of claim 13,

wherein the number fields and the operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns which share a first single column label.

19. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

receive into the memory a first character string which is associated with one of the numeric values; and

display the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the numeric value.

20. The system of claim 13,

wherein in the receiving into the memory the numeric values, the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

receive into the memory a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;

automatically shift an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and

receive into the memory a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

21. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

determine a first set of output character strings based on the numeric values; and
display the first set of output character strings in the number fields.

22. The system of claim 13, wherein the program instructions are further executable
5 by the CPU to:

display the mathematical formula and the first result of the mathematical formula
in one of the number fields.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the program instructions are further executable
10 by the CPU to:

receive into the memory an equality character after the receiving into the memory
the mathematical formula; and

wherein the displaying the first result of the mathematical formula comprises
displaying the first result after the receiving into the memory the equality character.

24. The system of claim 13,

wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in at least a first column and a
second column on the display screen; and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the CPU to:

20 automatically calculate a third result based on the numeric values in the number
fields in the second column; and

display the third result on the display screen.

25. A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program
25 instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

receiving into a memory a plurality of numeric values in a plurality of number
fields, wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a

display screen, wherein the numeric values comprise at least one mathematical formula, and wherein the mathematical formula includes a subtotal function;

receiving into the memory a set of one or more mathematical operators in one or more operation fields, wherein the operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen; and

automatically calculating a first result of the mathematical formula, wherein the automatically calculating the first result of the mathematical formula comprises automatically calculating a subtotal of a plurality of the numeric values in a plurality of number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered;

automatically calculating a second result by applying the mathematical operators to the first result and the numeric values other than the at least one mathematical formula; and

displaying the second result on the display screen.

26. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises calculating a subtotal of the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

27. The carrier medium of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

displaying the first result on the display screen in the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

28. The carrier medium of claim 27,

wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in a same column as the plurality of numeric values.

29. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the automatically calculating the subtotal comprises applying the mathematical operators in the operation fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered to the numeric values in the number fields preceding the number field in which the mathematical formula was entered.

30. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the number fields and the operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns which share a first single column label.

31. The carrier medium of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

receiving into the memory a first character string which is associated with one of the numeric values; and

displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the numeric value.

32. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the receiving into the memory the numeric values comprises:

receiving into the memory a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;

automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and

receiving into the memory a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

33. The carrier medium of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

determining a first set of output character strings based on the numeric values; and displaying the first set of output character strings in the number fields.

34. The carrier medium of claim 25, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

displaying the mathematical formula and the first result of the mathematical formula in one of the number fields.

35. The carrier medium of claim 34, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

receiving into the memory an equality character after the receiving into the memory the mathematical formula; and

wherein the displaying the first result of the mathematical formula comprises displaying the first result after the receiving into the memory the equality character.

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36. The carrier medium of claim 25,

wherein the plurality of number fields are displayed in at least a first column and a second column on the display screen; and

wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

automatically calculating a third result based on the numeric values in the number fields in the second column; and

displaying the third result on the display screen.

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